

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Pessetto on 12/7/09.

The application has been amended as follows: The phrase "in use" has been deleted from claim 1.

1. A beam splitter apparatus comprising a first beam splitter mount and a second beam splitter mount, the first beam splitter mount being coupled to the second beam splitter mount by a deformable connection, the beam splitter apparatus being arranged so that, ~~in use,~~ a force applied to the second beam splitter mount causes the second beam splitter mount to turn relative to the first beam splitter mount.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. Claims 1-21 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art taken either singularly or in combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations of the independent claim(s), in such a manner that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 would be proper. The prior art fails to teach a combination of all the claimed features as presented in claim(s) 1 and 15, wherein the claimed invention comprises, in claim 1, a beam splitter apparatus

wherein the first beam splitter mount being coupled to the second beam splitter mount by a deformable connection, the beam splitter apparatus being arranged so that a force applied to the second beam splitter mount causes the second beam splitter mount to turn relative to the first beam splitter mount; in claim 15, a method of controlling a beam comprising the first beam splitter and the beam deflector being on different first and second mounts arranged so the portion of the beam incident on the beam deflector propagates longitudinally from the first beam splitter to the beam deflector respectively, the method comprising: turning the beam deflector through an angle relative to the longitudinal propagation direction by deforming a connection between the beam deflector and the second mount, as claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRANDI N. THOMAS whose telephone number is (571)272-2341. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday from 6-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Mack can be reached on 571-272-2333. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brandi N Thomas/
Examiner
Art Unit 2873

BNT

/Scott J. Sugarman/
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